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IAP6 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 FEB 2006 P

PATENT ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 005092.00078

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

David Strand et al.

Application No.:

10/557,536

Filed:

November 21, 2005

Title:

Bulk Fluid Flow Gate

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby state that the following:

- Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages);
- Copies of Form 1449 (One Form) (1 page);
- Copy of International Search Report for PCT US04/15934 (1 page);
- Transmittal Letter (1 page); and
- Return Postcard

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, on **February 21, 2005** and is addressed P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Karen E. Crespo

February 21, 2006

Date

Signature of person mailing above-identified papers.

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Transition (II)

PATENT ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 005092.00078

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Application | n of: David Strand et al. |) | Confirmation No.: TBA |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Serial No.: | 10/557,536 |) | Examiner: TBA Art Unit: TBA |
| Filed: | November 21, 2005 |)) | Aut Ollit. 1DA |
| Title: | Bulk Fluid Flow Gate |)) | |

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

In regard to the above-identified application, we are transmitting herewith the attached:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages);
- 2. USPTO Form 1449 (2 pages);
- 3. Copy of International Search Report for PCT US04/15934 (1 page);
- 4. Certificate of Mailing (1 page); and
- 5. Return Receipt Postcard.

And hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

With respect to additional fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 21, 2006

Peter D. McDermott, Reg. No. 29,411 BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

28 State Street, 28th Floor

Boston, MA 02109 (617) 720-9600

Docket No. 005092.00078

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

David Strand et al.

EXAMINER: TBA

SERIAL NO.

10/557,536

GROUP:

TBA

FILED:

November 21, 2005

FOR:

Bulk Fluid Flow Gate

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97, Applicant herewith submits the publications and/or patents shown on the attached form PTO-1449, for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application.

REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97, this statement is being filed (CHECK ONE):

- <u>X</u>
- (1) within three (3) months of the Filing Date or before the mailing date of the First Office Action on the merits; or
- (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **Final Rejection** or **Notice of Allowance**, and the requisite Certification or fee under Rule 1.17(p) is included herein; or

Application Serial No. 10/557,536

____ (3) after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance but before the payment of the Issue Fee, and the requisite Certification, petition, and petition fee are included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the documents shown on the attached form(s) PTO-1449 be made of record in this application. Copies of the United States Patents are not being submitted per the August 5, 2003, OG Notice regarding Information Disclosure Statement filings. A copy is enclosed of the International Search Report for corresponding PCT/US04/15934.

Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.

FEE AUTHORIZATION

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due by virtue of the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. If however, any fee is required to enable this Information Disclosure Statement considered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, charge any such required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 21, 2006

Peter D. McDermott

Reg. No. 29,411

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| | Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | Complete if Known | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | Application Number | 10/557,536 | | | |
| l | INFO | RMATIO | N DIS | CLOSURE | Filing Date | 11/21/05 | |
| | STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | PPLICANT | First Named Inventor | David Strand et al. | |
| | | | | | Art Unit | Not Yet Assigned | |
| | | (use as many s | sheets as | necessary) | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned | |
| ackslash | Sheet | 1 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 005092.00078 | |

| | U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner | Cite | Document Number | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant | | | | |
| Initials * | No.¹ | Number - Kind Code ² (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | | Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | | | | |
| | | 5,880,071 | 03/09/1999 | Parce et al | See column 5, line 60, column 8, line 55 | | | | |
| | | 6,444,461 | 09/03/2002 | Knapp et al | See column 31, line 15 | | | | |
| | | 6,321,791 | 11/27/2001 | Chow | See column 12, line 47 | | | | |
| | | 6,508,273 | 01/21/2003 | Van Den Berg | Entire document | | | | |
| | | 6,725,882 | 04/27/2004 | Shia et al. | See column 6, line 6 | | | | |
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| | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner Cite Initials* No.1 | 0::- | Foreign Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant | | | |
| | Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Applicant of Cited Document | Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ | | | |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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| Substitute | e for form 1449A/PT0 |) | | Complete if Known | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | DIO | OL COURT | Application Number | 10/557,536 | |
| – | | | CLOSURE | Filing Date | 11/21/2005 | |
| STA | TEMENT B | Y A | PPLICANT | First Named Inventor | David Strand et al. | |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | Not Yet Assigned | |
| | (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned | |
| Sheet | 2 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 005092.00078 | |

| | OTHER PRIOR ART NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Examiner Initials * | Cite No.1 | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | | | |
| | | International Search Report for PCT/US04/15934 | | | | |
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| Examiner | Date | |
| Signature | Considered | |

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

^{*} EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.